

REMARKS

This Amendment is in reply to the Office Action mailed on August 25, 2004. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 14-17 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 3, 7-13, 15-22 and 41-45 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 7, 15, 16 and 18 have been amended. Claims 2, 4-6, 14 and 23-40 have been canceled. New claims 41-45 have been added. No new matter has been added. Entry and reconsideration of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 5 and 6, and allowable claim 14. Claim 3 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 5 and 6, and allowable claim 14. Claims 7, 15, 16 and 18 have been amended to correct their dependency from canceled claims to amended claim 1. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of Claims

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 18-20, 23-30 and 35-40 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Alfred Menezes et al., "Handbook of Applied Cryptography" ("Menezes").

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 5 and 6, and allowable claim 14. It is believed that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants assert that amended claim 1 is now patentable over the cited prior art. Furthermore, since claims 7-

13 and 15-22 depend from independent claim 1, and for the reasons stated above, these claims are allowable as well. Claims 2, 4-6, 23-30 and 35-40 have been canceled. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 10 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Menezes in view of Bruce Schneier, "Applied Cryptography" ("Schneier").

Claim 10 depends from independent claim 1, and for the reasons stated above, this claim is allowable. Claim 31 has been canceled. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 11-13, 21, 22, 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Menezes in view of Schneier and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,128,737 to Jakubowski et al. ("Jakubowski").

Claims 11-13 and 21-22 depend from independent claim 1, and for the reasons stated above, these claims are allowable. Claims 32 and 33 have been canceled. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

New Claims 41-45

New claim 41 depends from claim 3 which includes the subject matter of allowable claim 14. Claim 42 includes the subject matter claims 1, 5 and 6, and allowable claim 16. Claim 44 includes the subject matter claims 3, 5 and 6, and allowable claim 16. Claim 43 is the same as original allowable dependent claim 17, now canceled. Claim 45 is the same as original dependent and allowable claim 17, now canceled. Furthermore, claims 42 and 44 are allowable for the same reasons as recited by the Examiner for claim 16. By reason of their dependency from allowable independent claims 3, 42 and 44, the Applicants asserts that claims 41, 43 and 45, respectively, are also patentable over the cited references. Claims 41-45 should be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that all claims presented in this application are currently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide indication that the drawings are accepted by the Examiner in the next formal communication.

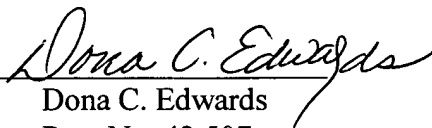
Should any changes to the claims and/or specification be deemed necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to discuss the same.

This Response is being filed with a Petition for a three-month extension of time. In the event that any extension and/or fee is required for the entry of this response the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0518 in the name of Steinberg & Raskin, P.C.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

STEINBERG & RASKIN, P.C.

By: 
Dona C. Edwards
Reg. No. 42,507

Steinberg & Raskin, P.C.
1140 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
(212) 768-3800
(212) 382-2124 Facsimile